NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
September 5, 1997

Dear Colleagues:

The words "United Way Crusade of Mercy" conjure up different images for many people. United Way is an institution created to benefit all people who need assistance through many avenues: community organizations, health care providers and educational groups. Many of United Way's targeted agencies are among those already working with the Museum in our educational and outreach missions.

This year for the first time the Museum participated in *The Gift In Kind Program,* inviting more than 400 children from United Way agencies to experience our Museum. We hope to reach many more groups during the coming year.

The United Way depends on contributions from individuals and institutions such as ours. All of you are invited to attend "The United Way Kick-Off Campaign Party" on Tuesday, September 9, 1997, to learn more about their programs and donor agencies.

I encourage all of you to consider making a pledge or contribution to The United Way so we can help "improve people's lives and build strong communities -- by raising hopes and reaching dreams ..."

Sincerely yours,

John McCarter
President & CEO

MAORI COLLABORATION CONTINUES

Seven Maori artisans from the New Zealand Maori Arts & Crafts Institute in Whakarewarewa Rotorua, New Zealand, visited Field Museum on August 27 and 28. They studied Maori artifacts in the collections and the exhibit halls. A dinner in their honor was hosted by the Maori Meeting House volunteers. The group slept overnight inside the Maori House. Their visit continues the collaborative relationship of Field Museum and the Maori, and the use of Ruatepupuke by the Maori and Field Museum as a living marae.

Submitted by **Mary Ann Bloom**

All Staff and Volunteers Invited!

WHAT: A presentation on an upcoming exhibit, **Swedish Folk Art: All Tradition is Change**.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 16, from 10:00 to 11:30

WHERE: Lecture Hall Two

This will be our holiday show for 1998. The Exhibits Department will present an overview of the exhibit and tell you all we know so that you can begin thinking about how your department will be involved. All are invited, but please check with your supervisor. Questions? Please call **Mia Schillace** (x513).

Congratulations!

Patricia Stratton has been named manager of Volunteer Services for the Museum. The volunteer position is now part of the Human Resources Department. Patti's office is located on the ground floor (in the former HR recruiting office) and her extension is 526. As manager of Volunteer Services, Patti is responsible for recruiting, interviewing, placing, training, tracking and recognizing the Museum's nearly 500 volunteers. For the past two years Patti worked in the Development Department as director of the Founders' Council, during which time there was expanded programming and membership. The Museum looks forward to similar growth and progress in its volunteer program under her leadership.

Submitted by **Marilyn Martinson**

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

Dear Fielders:

The United Way Crusade of Mercy reaches more than two and a half million people in the Chicagoland area each year through more than 450 health and human services agencies. The time to show we care is now, our United Way Campaign will begin Tuesday, September 9, 1997 and end Tuesday September 23, 1997.

On behalf of The Field Museum's United Way Campaign Committee, I would like to invite everyone to our **1997 "United Way Kick-Off Party" on Tuesday, September 9, 1997 in Montgomery Ward Hall from 9:30-10:00am.** We are very excited to share what we have learned with all of you. There will be a speaker from The United Way, a raffle with excellent prizes, plus you will find out how to win a *free parking pass* good for one month!!!!

To win the raffle prizes and *free parking pass* you do not have to contribute to The United Way. We want you to learn the facts about the organization and the value it provides to our community, so that you will want to make a contribution. The more people who contribute, the more individuals and families can be helped. The choice to give is yours, and yours alone.

Each of you will be receiving a pledge card and package of information from a campaign committee member. Please take the time to read the information, if you have any questions you can call me at ext378. I will be here for any questions you need answered. So we know each of you have received information about The United Way, we need all pledge cards returned to a committee member by Tuesday, September 23, 1997. The members of The Field Museum Campaign Committee are:

Beth Adams	Michelle Alcarez	Veronica Alexander	Cindy Andresen	Lisa Bergwall
Erica Blair	Carolyn Byrne	Michelle Calhoun	Marlene Donnelly	Laura Dini
Rayfield Drake	Valerie Gardner	Cathy Geraghty	Bev Gilliam	Joe Halik
Juan G. Hernandez	Paula Horecny	Martina Hough	Jennifer Hutchinson	Charles James III
Peter Lowther	Jeremiah Nimene	Kim Mazanek	Chris Ochoa	Phil Parillo
Pat Phillips	Anita Purnell	Moses Rasberry	Mia Schillace	Al Spencer
Dave Willard				

By donating a cup of coffee at just $0.66 every other week will amount to $17 after a year. Perhaps giving a pledge of $50 would be noticed in a one time gift, but by donating two dollars a pay check you can give that amount without really missing two dollars every other week.

Simply by attending the "Kick-Off Party" shows you care. Each of us can help "improve people's lives and build strong communities - by raising hopes and reaching dreams..." **I look forward to seeing all of you this Tuesday, September 9, in Montgomery Ward Hall at 9:30am.**

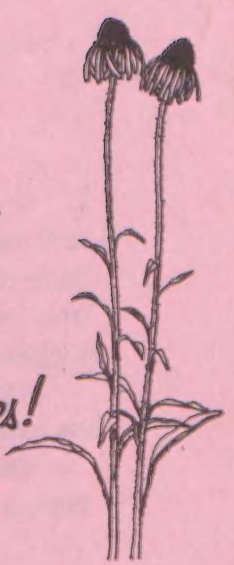
The United Way has invited all of us tonight, September 5, 1997, from 5:00-8:00pm to visit the Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park for a free concert in support of United Way featuring *Liquid Soul,* "America's hottest jazz-funk group."

Sincerely yours,

Annie Crawley
United Way Chairperson

Soon to be published:

A Visitors' Guide to Museum Highlights



We need your help--nominate your favorite Field Museum treasures!

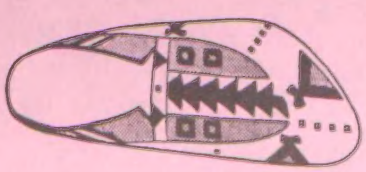
What are your favorite places, objects, specimens, installations in the Museum?

Tell us your descriptions, histories, and anecdotes!

Please help us share this vital information with our visitors. Provide a description of your nomination(s) and as much other history as you would like.

RETURN TO Sophia Shaw in Museum Affairs *OR*
E-MAIL your information to: shaw@fmppr.fmnh.org.

The more compelling your description and history, the more likely your treasure and story are to be included!



CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

RICHARDSON'S GUIDE TO THE FOSSIL FAUNA OF MAZON CREEK

Northeastern Illinois University has just published *Richardson's Guide to the Fossil Fauna of Mazon Creek.* The Department of Geology houses the pre-eminent collection of Mazon Creek fossils. Like the Burgess shale of Canada and the Solenhofen assemblage in Germany, the Mazon Creek biota contains an exceptional variety of unusual and well-preserved fossils -- many of which are extremely rare. The book is named in honor of the late **Eugene S. Richardson, Jr.** a former Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology at The Field Museum. In the 1950s and 1960s coal mining operations south of Chicago brought to light huge quantities of Mazon Creek nodules. Richardson became the leader in the exploration of the area and a close friend of the many amateur collectors who carried their finds to him. At the time of his death in 1983, Richardson had amassed thousands of fossils from the Mazon Creek area which provided a unique insight into the flora and fauna of northeastern Illinois 300 million years ago.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

NEW GUINEA RESEARCH PROGRAM NEWS (NGRP)

Planning for a 1998 Chicago workshop, "Conserving our Diversity," has begun. On Monday, August 25, **Daniel Nolan,** Summer Intern from Northwestern University, coordinated the first planning meeting of a new work group charged with developing effective research protocols for studying the relations among health and disease, human genetic diversity, and the historical dynamics of human populations. Attending were Jim Kaput, Director, and Eric Reyes, Technician, at the Biotechnology Laboratory, Northwestern University; Karen Klein, Instructor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University Medical School; Research Associate **Ann Stodder** (Anthropology) Curator **John Terrell** (Anthropology and Director, NGRP) and Research Associate **Sloan Williams** (Anthropology and Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago). This workshop will foster communication and consensus among researchers in the Mid-West and develop (1) shared research objectives, data standards, and modeling procedures; and (2) appropriate field research protocols. Agreement on field protocols does not currently exist, making it difficult for anthropologists and others to study human diversity and predict what our own species will be like in the future.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ILLINOIS RAPID ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (IRAP) - NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Battling bait-stealing raccoons, trap-trampling cows, and over-enthusiastic mosquitoes, since May '97 the IRAP team has made some very interesting discoveries during their biological inventories of Swallow Cliff Woods, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Powderhorn Marsh (in Lake Calumet) and Green Lake Savanna.

Collection Manager **Al Resetar** (Amphibians and Reptiles) was thrilled to find that the leopard frog, musk turtle and Blanding's turtle, are persisting at Powderhorn Marsh, and that the blue-spotted salamander is living at Green Lake Savanna. Al is also finding common herp species such as snapping and painted turtles, eastern garter snakes, American toads, and bullfrogs. This fall or next spring, Al plans to install drift fences. This technique may reveal species that Al has not yet observed.

Adjunct Curator **Gary Merrill** (Botany) has collected upwards of 600 specimens of bryophytes. His most exciting find to date is the hornwort, Anthoceros carolinianus, not seen locally since the 1930s. Hornworts constitute the third major group of *bryophytes*, in addition to liverworts (hepatics), and mosses. Gary also found the moss Calliergonella cuspidata at Burnham Prairie, a species last reported in our area from a tamarack swamp in northern Lake County, in 1928. It's the first record from the old Chicago Lake Plain, and a new record for Cook county. At Midewin Prairie, Gary has discovered extensive "cryptogamic crusts" (mats of cyanobacteria, lichens, and xeromorphic bryophytes) which cover exposed dolomite bedrock surfaces at one of our I-RAP sampling sites. These crusts take a long time to develop and are fragile and sensitive to disturbance by grazers. Their presence indicates that this site has not been grazed for quite some time.

Adjunct Curator **Margaret Thayer** (Insects) and her crew found what appears to be a brand NEW species of staphylinid of the genus *Erichsonius* in one of their samples from Green Lake Savanna. Margaret will search for more specimens in subsequent samples to confirm her find, but it doesn't match any of the species included in the most recent revision of the group. Exciting finds at Midewin include a specimen of Platydracus tomentosus, captured by **Amy Varsek**. This species hasn't been collected in Illinois since 1981, and there are no previous records from Will County. Collections of Pycnoglypta campbelli (in a group Margaret works on) are also the first record of that species from Will County. Work at Swallow Cliff last year turned up 41 new Cook County records and 26 new Illinois records of staphylinids, and Margaret expects there will be many more new discoveries as the IRAP samples are sorted and identified further.

In future issues of *Natural News*, look for exciting IRAP findings on fungi, vascular plants, snails, and birds.

Noon Balloon will resume on Tuesday, September 9 at 12 noon in the Zoology Classroom.

TWO NEW FACES IN THE CAMPAIGN OFFICE

Sarah Gunderson joins the development department as Manager of Donor Relations on Monday, September 8. Previously, she was the Director of Student and Young Alumni Relations in Northwestern University's Department of Alumni Relations. While there, she oversaw the all-University Homecoming program and a variety of award-winning projects that link alumni back to campus. Before Northwestern, Sarah was on the development staff of the Oregon Episcopal School in Portland.

Sarah will work to cultivate individual prospects during the Campaign's "public phase." Her first major project at the Museum will be the October 15 Campaign celebration event in Stanley Field Hall. Sarah lives in Park Ridge with her husband Mark.

On September 8, we will also welcome **Cindy Oakes** as development research coordinator. She comes to the Museum from a similar position at the Northwestern Memorial Foundation and brings with her considerable experience in campaign-related prospect research. Northwestern Memorial has recently completed a $126 million capital campaign. Previously, Cindy worked at Northwestern University.

Cindy is active in the Association of Prospect Researchers for Advancement and is pursuing a degree from the Harrington Institute of Interior Design. She lives in Evanston with her husband Brian Utley.

Submitted by **Charles Katzenmeyer**